

George Doherty to Andrew Jackson, March 6, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

GEORGE DOHERTY TO JACKSON.

Four Springs, March 6, 1814.

Sir, Yours of the 2d. Inst. arrived last evening both yours of the 28th. ult I also received —the first I immediately answered in it I mentioned my doubts of the fidelity of the troops in consequence of a contagion diffused among them by the breath of Genl. Cocke and am sorry To state that my doubts have since been realized. In my dispatch of the 3d. I mentioned my entention to march the next morning and I gave orders accordingly. Shortly after revallie the Troops assembled at the beat of the drum and gathered in Colo. Allisons Regt. from all Quarters. on enquireing the cause of the uproar To my astonishment I was informed that They had beat up for volunteers to go home: they Said that Genl. Cocke had told Barkly Boyd A Substitute from Carter County (a Capt. when at home) that if he would take the men home he would give them theire discharge in Knoxville for they ware illegally drafted the whole Camp Accordingly was in confusion, and those who did not join them in action did in words. I had not a company to depend on to oppose their force and concequently could not make an example of them if detained they took up the line of march about half past 8 a: m many of them returning immediately I found from report that 184 had deserted. I had directed No ammuniton to be fired from its scarcity lest it should be wasted which rendered it completely out of my power (immediately) to pursue them. But as soon as I could issue powder I detached Capt. Levens horsemen after them but they had dispersed and taken different routs so that few Could be overtaken this event throwing into confusion and disorganizeing the Brigade prevented my marching that and the next day. I shall take up the line of march this morning with about Eight

Library of Congress

hundred effectives exclusive of those at Fort Armstrong under command of Majr. Clasky whom I have directed to be relieved by Capt. Hampton, Colo. Bunch will march with me my rout will be through they Valley mentioned in your last. I have left capt. Richardson and Hawkins with their Companys under the direction of Majr. Baxter to form the guards named in your last. I have not as yet received a return from Majr. Allen of those at fort deposite but presume you must have received it before this time. When I shall have marched one so that I can make an accurate statement of my strenth I will advise you thereof by express.

I have taken legall measures, for the apprehension of the deserters directing them advertised In the Knoxville Gazett and also have directed the Colo, and officers of different counties to confine and send back as many of them as may come within their boundarys an express leaves heare this morning for that purpose and if Justice cannot be done to [men so] highly deserveing death there is no use for any United States Law nor for Tennessee to lift her head Among her Sister States.

I am with high esteem